**Going deeper in Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

In the time of Ezekiel Israel had been conquered and no longer existed as an independent nation. They were under the rule of the Babylonian empire. Jerusalem has been sieged and all the residents including Ezekiel have been deported to Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-17). In the following passage Ezekiel is given a vision of hope in a situation that appeared hopeless.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

The hand of the LORD grabbed me and carried me by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley full of dry bones. He pulled me back and forth over them and I saw there were many bones on the floor of the valley and they were very dry. He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “LORD, you know.” He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones and speak to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!” This is what the Sovereign LORD says, “I will make the breath of life enter into you and you will live. I will attach sinews to you and create flesh on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD. So, I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and sinews and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, Prophesy to the breath, prophesy son of man, and say to it, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says, ‘Come to from the four winds, O Spirit and breathe into these slain, that they may live.” So, I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone, we are cut off.’ Therefore, prophesy and say to them, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says, ‘O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them, I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD has spoken and I have done it, declares the LORD.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why would the Spirit of God set Ezekiel in a valley of dry bones and then take him back and forth through the whole thing? What did God want him to feel and understand?

2. What does Ezekiel realize about the bones in verse 2? Why would this be important?

3. What do you think it means to “prophesy” over the bones?

4. What do you think it felt like for Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones and then see what happened?

5. What is this passage saying about the power of God and the power of God’s word spoken through us?

6. What are areas of your life where you need the LORD to breathe new life into?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Pray that the Spirit of the Living God will give you the faith to live confidently in His power today.

\*Pray that He will give words to breathe hope and new life into those you will encounter today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Ezekiel and the people of God are facing a situation that is beyond their power. The passage is about God’s power at work in the impossible situations that you have face and a call to trust in God’s resurrection power for all of creation. Will your life reflect your trust in His power at work in your life this week?